



EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES

BUENOS AIRES • ARGENTINA



**STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR WAYNE
AFTER PRESENTATION OF CREDENTIALS
NOVEMBER 6, 2006**

Good morning everyone. As you know, I just presented my credentials as the new U.S. Ambassador to Argentina to Foreign Minister Taiana.

The Foreign Minister and I had a good discussion about the bilateral relationship. I won't go into details on our conversation, except to say that I told him that the U.S. greatly values its relations with Argentina; that we view bilateral ties as very positive and productive on a wide range of issues; and that I would do everything in my power to enhance the good communication and cooperation we now enjoy. I believe that our common interests and democratic values will serve us well in achieving this objective.

I am delighted to be here after several months of preparation. I am honored to have been nominated by the President, with the advice and consent of the Senate, to represent the United States in Argentina. I am humbled by the task that lies before me. I pledge to bring to bear my more than three decades of

experience working on international affairs in my efforts to strengthen the ties between our two nations.

But I am also committed to listening and learning in the weeks and months ahead. No single country or person has all the answers to the issues that confront us. Meeting Argentines from all walks of life and hearing their views is important to me, and I intend to take advantage of every opportunity to engage in what I'm sure will be a rich and fruitful dialogue.

I look forward to experiencing first-hand the vast natural beauty of Argentina and to enjoying the vibrant cultural and intellectual life of this great country. I also want to help Argentines get to know the U.S better. It is in both our nations' interests that we broaden the avenues of discussion and deepen mutual understanding between our two peoples.

Thank you for being here today. I look forward to getting to know many of you and to learning from you during my time in Argentina. I am a strong believer in a vibrant and free press, having worked as a journalist for two years in my career. I will be happy to take a couple of questions. I ask for your patience with my Spanish. I have not yet mastered your beautiful language, but I will keep working to improve my fluency.